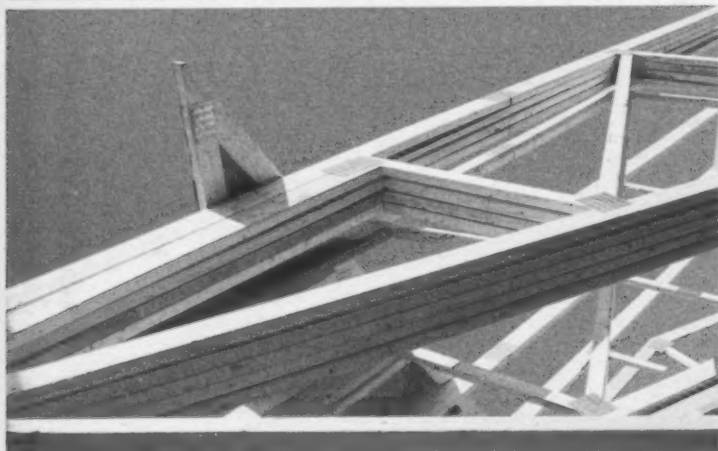




INDUSTRY PROFILES

Construction Industry

July 2010

Government of Alberta ■
Employment and Immigration

Overview:

The Construction industry¹ in Alberta includes establishments that:

- construct, repair or renovate residential buildings (i.e. houses, apartment buildings, condominiums);
- construct, repair or renovate business and commercial buildings (i.e. office towers, shops, malls);
- construct, repair or renovate industrial buildings (i.e. oil refineries, petrochemical plants, power plants);
- perform engineering works (i.e. highways, bridges, pipelines); and
- subdivide and develop land.

Section A: Business Environment

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¹ North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) major group 23

Section A: Business Environment

1. 2009 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates:

	Alberta	Construction Industry
Number of employed	1,988,100	191,800
Percent employed in the industry		9.6%
Number of unemployed	139,700	19,100
Unemployment rate	6.6%	9.1%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2009, Statistics Canada

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, please go to the Labour Force Statistics² or Statistics Canada³ websites.

2. Industry Growth:

- Employment in the Construction industry declined by 6.6% in 2009 and is expected to grow by 2.2% annually from 2010 to 2013.

For more information, see the Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2009 – 2013, Industry Employment Outlook⁴ online and the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS)⁵ website's industry descriptions.

² See <http://www.employment.alberta.ca/BI/67.html>

³ See <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>

⁴ See http://www.employment.alberta.ca/documents/LMI/LMI-LMF_2009-13_cops.pdf

⁵ See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca>

Trends and Outlook

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Construction industry accounted for 7.2% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2009 compared to 6.6% in 1999. This industry was the second largest employer and its share of Alberta's total employment rose from 7.6% in 1999 to 9.6% in 2009.

Employment in 2009 was 6.6% lower than its level in 2008. Over the last ten years, employment increased from 116,900 people in 1999 to 191,800 people in 2009.

The Construction Sector Council's (CSC) forecast report, *Construction Looking Forward – An Assessment of Construction Labour Markets from 2010 to 2018 for Alberta*, estimates that 23,700 new jobs will be created in the industry during the forecast period.

The outlook for investment in Alberta is an important driver of the demand for construction trades. The CSC current outlook can be seen in the table below.

Investment Expenditures, Alberta, 2009-2018						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014-2018*
Residential Investment (includes new housing and renovations)						
2002 \$Millions	6,023	7,034	8,502	7,931	7,638	8,196
% Change	-24.3	16.8	20.9	-6.7	-3.7	1.6
Non-residential Investment (includes engineering construction, building construction, industrial construction, commercial construction, institutional and government construction and machinery and equipment)						
2002 \$Millions	19,356	20,079	21,352	22,113	22,870	24,829
% Change	-11.6	3.7	6.3	3.6	3.4	1.7

Source: *Construction Looking Forward – An Assessment of Construction Labour Markets from 2010 to 2018 for Alberta*, Construction Sector Council

*Growth rates are averages for the period, while levels are 2018 values.

3. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry:

Establishment Size	Alberta Businesses		Construction Businesses	
	Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	561,300	34.3%	56,800	41.8%
20 to 99 employees	582,500	35.6%	49,400	36.4%
100 to 500 employees	298,700	18.3%	19,800	14.6%
Over 500 employees	194,000	11.9%	9,800	7.2%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2009, Statistics Canada

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Note: Statistics Canada's survey methodology for determining establishment size differs from the one it uses in the Labour Force Survey to determine total employment. As a result, the total number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the industry, except by coincidence.

Section B: Human Resources Profile

1. Occupational Information:

Some examples of occupations in the Construction industry include:

- bricklayer;
- carpenter;
- electrician;
- roofer; and
- steamfitter-pipefitter.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry as well as detailed information on educational and skill requirements, visit the Alberta Occupational Profiles⁶ website.

2. Demographics: Age and Gender:

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Construction industry is as follows:

- women employed: 25,400 people, or 13.2%
- men employed: 166,400 people, or 86.8%

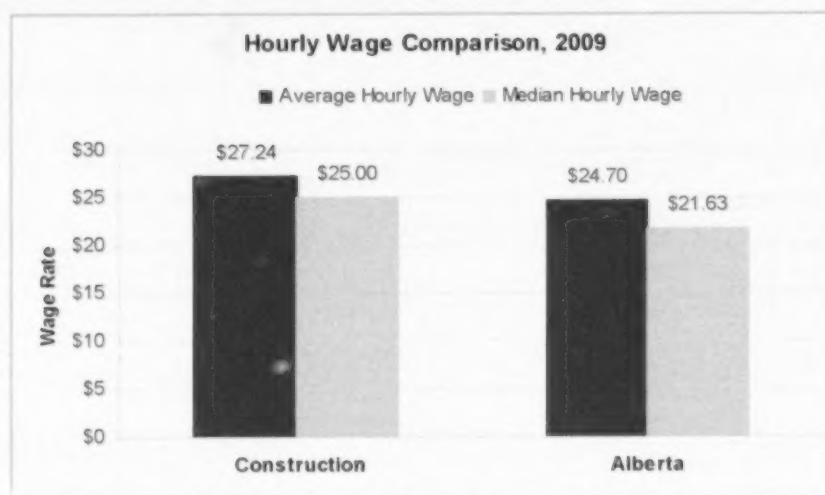
In Alberta, women accounted for 45.4% and men made up 54.6% of total employment.

Age Characteristics	Alberta Employees		Construction Employees	
	Number	%	Number	%
15-24 years	316,400	15.9%	31,200	16.3%
25-54 years	1,356,400	68.2%	133,200	69.4%
55 years and over	315,300	15.9%	27,500	14.3%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2009, Statistics Canada

⁶ See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo>

3. Wages:



Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2009, Statistics Canada

Note: The average hourly wage is obtained by dividing the sum of the wages of all the employees by the total number of employees. The median hourly wage is that wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Occupation	Average Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
	Starting Average	Overall Average	Top Average	
Welders and related machine operators	\$ 45.02	\$ 45.96	\$ 50.03	\$ 108,907
Electrician	\$ 24.71	\$ 30.81	\$ 35.47	\$ 65,207
Carpenter	\$ 25.95	\$ 28.84	\$ 31.51	\$ 63,295

Data Source: 2009 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For information on wages, refer to the WAGEinfo⁷ website. For job descriptions, duties, required skills and education requirements for specific occupations in the Construction industry, visit the ALIS⁸ website.

⁷ See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo>

⁸ See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca>

Section C: Additional Information

1. Links to Selected Industry Associations:

- Alberta Building Trades Council
(<http://www.albertabuildingtrades.com>)
- Alberta Construction Association
(<http://www.abconst.org>)
- Alberta Construction Safety Association
(<http://www.acsa-safety.org>)
- Alberta Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association
(<http://www.arhca.ab.ca>)
- Calgary Construction Association
(<http://www.cca.cc>)
- Calgary Region Home Builders Association
(<http://www.crhba.com>)
- Canadian Home Builders' Association - Alberta
(<http://chbaalberta.ca>)
- Construction Owners Association of Alberta
(<http://www.coaa.ab.ca>)
- Construction Sector Council
(<http://www.csc-ca.org>)
- Edmonton Construction Association
(<http://www.edmca.com>)
- Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta
(<http://www.ecaa.ab.ca>)
- Merit Contractors Association
(<http://www.meritalberta.com>)

2. Link to Government Library Database:

<http://www.servicelink.gov.ab.ca/libraries/workplace>